

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /089 W
-----057719 101013Z /10

R 081529Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1688
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2492

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IS, JO
SUBJ: FURTHER REPORTS OF ISRAELI-SPONSORED ALTERNATIVES TO
WEST BANK MAYORS

REF: A. JERUSALEM 2316, B. AMMAN 6848

1. A NUMBER OF CHIEFS OF VILLAGE COUNCILS IN THE NABLUS AREA
HAVE PETITIONED THE MILGOV FOR PERMISSION TO FORM A UNION,
"AL QUDS" REPORTED SEPT 7.
2. ONE PROMOTER, JAWDAT SAWALHAH OF 'ASIRAH ASH SHAMALIYAH,
IS QUOTED AS DEFINING THE AIMS OF THE UNION AS STRENGTHENING
STEADFASTNESS, UNIFYING POLITICAL POSITIONS, ASSURING THE
PROSPERITY OF THE LAND, EXCHANGING OPINIONS AND PRESENTING
REQUESTS TO CONCERNED PARTIES.
3. THE POLITICAL LOCAL EMPLOYEE AT THE BRITISH CONSULATE,
HIMSELF A NABULSI, CLAIMS JORDANIAN LOYALIST 'ABD-AL-RA'UF
AL FARIS FAVORS THE UNION, BUT IS NOT YET BACKING IT OPENLY
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AND THAT THE GOJ SUPPORTS THE IDEA AS A MEANS OF COUNTERACTING
PLO INFLUENCE. OUR INITIAL INQUIRIES IN NABLUS HAVE NEITHER
CONFIRMED NOR DISPROVED THIS ALLEGED JORDANIAN CONNECTION.

4. THE NABLUS INITIATIVE HAS NATURALLY BEEN SEEN LOCALLY AS
A NORTHERN COUNTERPART TO MUSTAFA DUDIN'S UNION IN HEBRON.
(REF A). DESPITE REPORTS THAT THE GOJ HAS PRIVATELY DISCOURAGED

COOPERATION WITH DUDIN (REF B), SEVERAL LOCAL PALESTINIANS
CONTINUE TO CHARACTERIZE HIM AS "JORDAN'S MAN." DUDIN NO
DOUBT ENCOURAGES THAT BELIEF AND TOLD OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUE
RECENTLY THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD ASSURED HIM PRIVATELY OF HIS
SUPPORT. ON THE BASIS OF EMBASSY AMMAN'S REPORTING, WE STRONGLY
DOUBT THAT CLAIM. THE BELL WEATHER ON THIS RUMORED PROJECT
IN THE NORTH WOULD BE AL FARIS WHO, WE UNDERSTAND, IS POPULAR
AND INFLUENTIAL BOTH LOCALLY AND IN AMMAN. WITH HIS BACKING,
THESE VILLAGE UNIONS WOULD BEGIN TO LOOK SERIOUS, AND THE
WEST BANK MAYORS' CONCERN COULD BE EXPECTED TO MOUNT QUICKLY.
NEWLIN

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